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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. KNOLLENBERG].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 13, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOE KNOLLENBERG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK] for 5 minutes.

### OPPOSE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today we will begin debating H.R. 728, the law enforcement block grant proposal.

With violent crime still the No. 1 concern of most Americans, the voters should know why this proposal will do nothing to decrease instances of violent crime. In fact, having been a police officer for 12 years, as a police officer, we get angry when we hear these proposals about new crime bills, angry because crime is an emotional issue.

But unfortunately it is always being used for political purposes.

Crime is not political. Crime is not Democrat nor Republican. It is not independent. It is personal. Crime violates the self-respect of every individual touched by crime, and elected officials who play politics with crime, or try to seize upon the fear of crime for political gain do a disservice to this country, to their constituency, and to the civility of our own country.

For the past 7 years, there had not been a crime bill. In August 1994 we passed a crime bill.

In the past, crime bills were always defeated because this group or that group or a President would veto a crime bill. While they were busy playing politics with crime, crime has tripled. Violent crime has gone up 300 percent. It has tripled in the last 10 years. Yet the number of police officers on the street helping to combat violent crime has only gone up just a mere 10 percent.

So why are we here today on H.R. 728 after 4 months of passing a crime bill? Pure and simple, we are here because of politics. We are here because one group is trying to capitalize and repeal the work we did in 1994 merely for political purposes.

H.R. 728 will repeal the promise, the provisions to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. They want to take that money for 100,000 more police officers on the street and replace it with a massive block grant program that allows money to be spent with no restrictions, a massive block grant program like we did in the late sixties and early seventies called the Law Enforcement Administrative Agency. The LEAA, Mr. Speaker, was a failure and a very costly one for this country.

For instance, the block grants that were granted in 1968 and 1970 went like this. In Louisiana, a sheriff purchased a tank saying it would be necessary for

crowd control. In Indiana, \$84,000 in LEAA funds were block-granted so they could purchase an aircraft that could be used to fly the Governor around the State. Well, in fact, it did come to Washington once to pick up some Moon rocks and went back to Indiana, really a swell crime-fighting program there.

In Alabama, the LEAA funded a police cadet program. Over \$117,000 was put out for costs of this program that went to the payment to the sons, the friends, and relatives of other high State ranking officials. One State used the money to make a manual, and you know what, the manual turned out to be nothing more than a copy of an existing Federal publication. Another city used the LEAA block grant funds to buy a police car, a Chevrolet Impala. It had no police markings, it had no sirens, it had no flashers. It was used as a private vehicle for the mayor. The city of New Orleans spent \$200,000 in block grants to buy land. Other law enforcement officials did LEAA block grant funds for financial investments. In fact, 33 cents on every dollar spent in LEAA funds went for outside consultants, for administrative costs.

So we are here today with H.R. 728 to redo the pork of Christmases past, to bring back these block grants. The Republicans are going to dismantle the police on the street, the cops on the street program, to go back to block grants.

Since the 1994 crime bill was passed on October 1, it became effective, we have placed 17,000, authorized 17,000 new police officers to be placed in our communities to do community policing.

In a letter dated February 6, the President of the Fraternal Order of Police stated, "We strongly support your resolve to fight any repeal of the funding earmarked for the hiring of 100,000 police officers." February 7, a letter

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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